

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-10 SAB-01 ACDA-05

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /087 W

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R 201537Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1930

INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

S E C R E T ALGIERS 0476

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AG, MO, SS

SUBJ: SPANISH SAHARA

1. NUMBER OF TELEGRAMS IN RECENT DAYS HAVE REFERRED TO APPREHENSIONS OF VARIOUS PARTIES REGARDING ALGERIAN INTENTIONS IN SPANISH SAHARA. MOST RECENT TO COME TO OUR ATTENTION IS RIYADH 50 REPORTING CONVERSATION WITH SENIOR SAUDI OFFICIAL WHO EXPRESSED FEAR THAT INDEPENDENT SPANISH SAHARA WOULD FALL UNDER ALGERIAN DOMINATION.

2. ALGERIANS HAVE CONTINUED REFRAIN FROM PUBLIC COMMENT ON SITUATION. FROM CONVERSATIONS WITH ALGERIAN OFFICIALS HOWEVER WE THINK THEIR POSITION QUITE CLEAR:

(1) THEY SUPPORT PRINCIPLE OF SELF-DETERMINATION FOR SPANISH SAHARA; (2) THEY ARE CONCERNED ABOUT INTERESTES OF MAURITANIA; (3) THEY THINK (WITH SPANISH ENCOURAGEMENT) WE ARMING MOROCCANS IN ORDER HELP THEM CONFRONT SPANISH. BELIEVE ALGERIA WOULD BE PREPARED

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ACQUIESCE IN DIVISION SPANISH SAHRAR BETWEEN MOROCCO

AND MAURITANIA, BUT NOT IN MOROCCAN ACQUISITION
ENTIRE TERRITORY. WE DO NOT KNOW WHAT ALGERIAN
CAPABILITIES ARE IN TERMS OF ORGANIZING INDEPENDENCE
MOVEMENT, IN EVENT THEY DECIDE OPPOSE MOROCCANS, BUT
THINK THEIR SUPPORT FOR ONE WOULD BE NATURAL CONSEQUENCE
ALGERIAN POSITION IN THIRD WORLD.

3. THERE HAS BEEN FREQUENT MENTION OVER RECENT YEARS
BY MOROCCANS OF THEIR CONCERN REGARDING ALGERIAN
MILITARY CAPABILITIES. WHILE ALGERIAN ARMY UNDOUBTEDLY
BETTER ORGANIZED AND EQUIPPED THAN AT TIME OF MOROCCAN-
ALGERIAN WAR, WE DO NOT HAVE IMPRESSION THAT ALGERIA IN
STATE OF PREPAREDNESS FOR ATTACK ON MOROCCO OR ANY ONE
ELSE. ALGERIAN ARMY AT MOMENT LARGELY INVOLVED IN
CIVIC ACTION PROJECTS SUCH AS CONSTRUCTION TRANS-SAHARAN
HIGHWAY AND SAHARAN GREEN BELT. FURTHER, ONLY REAL
COMBAT-READY UNITS OF ALGERIAN ARMED FORCES--THEIR SINGLE
TANK BRIGADE AND THEIR MOST ADVANCED AIRCRAFT--ARE AND
HAVE BEEN SINCE OCTOBER 1973 IN EGYPT. ARMY IS NOT MUCH
IN EVIDENCE IN COASTAL AREAS OF ALGERIA AND ONE HEARS NO
BELLICOSE STATEMENTS LOCALLY.
THERE NO LOVE LOST BETWEEN TWO REGIMES BUT
THERE IS NO GREAT CONCENTRATION AS FAR AS WE CAN TELL
ON PLANS TO INVADE MOROCCO.
PARKER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, TERRITORIAL CLAIMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975ALGIER00476
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750061-0608
From: ALGIERS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750229/aaaaazur.tel
Line Count: 86
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 MAY 2003 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <21 MAY 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SPANISH SAHARA
TAGS: PFOR, AG, MO, SS
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006